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80
23

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No. 10.

AMERICAN AMATEUR FLORISTS.

MR. E. RUSTON.

Mr. E. Ruston, whose portrait is given this month, was born in England during the first month of 1866, and emigrated to America with his parents during the fall of '67. He has always possessed a fondness for flowers, and although his early bouquets were composed mostly of "stars in the grass" (Dandelions), and buttercups (*Ranunculus*), plucked from an old fashioned country lane, yet they furnished a bit of color, and they afforded innocent pleasure in gathering them. His earliest experience in seed sowing was in planting peas and beans in his miniature garden, and digging them up the next day to see if they had sprouted. But his fondness for gardening increased, and his rambles in the woods strengthened his love for the flowers. These rambles were continued up to the spring of '91, when a long severe turn of sickness following La Grippe left him too weak for walking but a short distance, and even now, though much improved, he is not capable of undertaking a journey to the woods. His floral collection is extensive and he has taken great pleasure in caring

for his plants and flowers, sending bouquets to the sick and giving to friends and neighbors. In a recent letter to the editor he makes this reference to flowers:

"How cheerful a few flowers make a home, and how fittingly Longfellow portrays them in the following lines:

'In all places, and in all seasons,
Flowers expand their light and soul like wings;
Teaching us by most persuasive reasons,
How akin they are to human things.'

Would that every habitation could be

surrounded by a flower garden to brighten and make its occupants happy, and sweeten toil and care."

Mr. Ruston has recently issued a little work on Floriculture which is well worth having. It will prove a valuable assistant to the amateur florist. His advertisement elsewhere will give further information of it to persons interested.

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WHITE DAY LILIES.

—On the north side of our dwelling is a border

of White Day Lilies, a position which suits them admirably. On a single spike I counted between forty and fifty blooms at one time in different stages of development. Mrs. J. A. P.

Haywood Co., Tenn., Sept. 29, 1892.

Maggie S., Ill.:—The Lily you describe, and of which you send specimen is *Lilium elegans* (or *Thunbergianum*).



MR. E. RUSTON.

Drawn from a photograph, and engraved on wood for Park's Floral Magazine

FLORAL GIFTS TO CHILDREN.

As gifts for children for birthday or holiday festival, in fact for any occasion, I know of nothing sweeter or more appropriate than flowers. A Tom Thumb Fuchsia was once received as an "extra" among a lot of plants from a florist. I gave it my best care, and when it had grown to be a fine, large plant and hung thick with its crimson balls, just ready to burst into bloom, as sweet and graceful as a bright little girl I knew, I gave it to her for her collection. A Cyclamen found its way to another little flower lover. No gifts of mine are ever received with more evident delight than the flowers I give the children. I always seek to have it something that blooms freely and is of easy culture, so that the small recipients can care for it all by themselves.

The toys for which we pay our dollars are old in a week and seldom renew their youth; perhaps they are lost or broken. But flowers, living, growing flowers are indeed a "joy forever" to little people, as well as to us of larger growth. I do not mean to object to toys; they are a matter of course where children are concerned, but let us think twice whether it would not be better for the children as well as for ourselves if a part of the money we pay over the toy and candy counters found the way to the florist. Try it and see.

Lillie Sheldon.

Thurston Co., Wash.

MY WILD FLOWERS.—I have, close to my front fence, a bed about six feet wide, which in the early spring is admired by every passer by. The first row nearest the path is of *Houstonia*, closely set, so that they form a perfect hedge; next are plants of wild *Dielytra*, or Dutchman's Breeches; then a row of *Anemones*, and lastly the wild *Phlox*. The first row blooms earliest, and then the others follow in consecutive order; all being in their height of beauty by the middle of May. If any one wishes a prettier bed than this in the early spring, I scarcely know of what they would make it. I have many other wild flowers that bloom at different times throughout the year, but this bed is the one in which I most delight.

Mrs. E. L. Morgan.

Kane Co., Ill.

PLANTING HARDY BULBS.

Plant hardy bulbs from September till the first of November in the north; the earlier they are planted the earlier will be the bloom. Have the rows seven or eight inches wide, and Tulips, Hyacinths, Narcissus, and bulbs of that size, from five to seven inches apart, and four or five inches deep. Crocuses, Snowdrops, and small sized bulbs should be planted full three inches deep, while Lilies need to be planted six or seven inches deep for large bulbs. Bulbs should be planted when the ground is not too wet, on a fair day; the fall rains will settle the soil. After the ground freezes cover with a couple inches of coarse manure or leaves; remove this when the bulbs begin to grow in early spring, and if the weather is dry, water as freely as you would any flowers.

Once thoroughly planted in this way, if the faded flower stalks are cut so they will not seed and injure the bulbs, the bulbs will grow vigorously and mature fine flowering bulbs every year. With a good top dressing of any kind of manure late every fall they will not derogate or need replanting oftener than once in four or five years. If one cannot plant their hundreds of bulbs, they can their dozen or one or two, with this liberal treatment, and rejoice to see the perfection they will gain.

Offsets of Tulips will bloom in a couple of years in rich soil; when the single leaves grow wide as the hand, one can expect to see that bulb bear a small flower the next spring that will increase in size with age. I had a Hyacinth offset but a year old bloom last spring, producing a tiny spike with five flowers. That offsets will bloom in time is certain; but probably we will have to exercise as much patience as they do in Holland to have large sized blooming bulbs, with the risk that they will be as fine as those just imported. But they will grow when we are sleeping and in their own time reward us each after its own kind of beauty and sweetness.

C. H.

Sanford, Me., Sept. 12, 1892.

A GRAND PLANT.—*Hydrangea Paniculata* is certainly a grand plant, needing but little care. In August, whether dry or damp, it is always in full bloom, and is just white enough to finish a bouquet.

Mrs. T. S. Calhoun.

Beaver Co., Pa., Sept. 8, 1892.

WATER HYACINTHS.

In these days of gorgeous floral catalogues and extravagant word-painting it is refreshing to find something that more than meets one's expectations. Such a plant I have found in *Pontederia Crassipes*, more commonly known as Water Hyacinth. From a start of three small plants, this spring I have now two half barrels full to overflowing of plants and have given away over a hundred plants besides, by actual count. They have bloomed freely and the flowers were every whit as large and as beautiful as they were claimed to be. No plants could be less trouble. After once planting I have never given them the least care, except to put a little water in the tubs now and then to replace that lost by evaporation, and to thin them out occasionally, as I found they bloomed best when not crowded. Everybody admires them, for the curious foliage is handsome, and the Orchid-like blossoms are of an uncommon type of beauty, that catches every eye. The texture of the blooms is so exquisitely delicate and transparent, as to seem like tinted frost-work, while the bright blotch of the upper petals reminds one of a *Cattleya* or *Lemoine Gladiolus*. Anyway you look at it, the plant is a curious one. It's stalk, leaf, bloom and habit, are alike peculiar. It's spikes spring up as by magic, where a day or two before, not a bud could be seen. The flowers stand the hottest sun with impunity, but wither away after one day's beauty, while the old flower stalk, that at first was erect, quickly crooks itself in goose-neck fashion back into the water to ripen its tiny blue-black seeds.

Our editor recommends keeping the Water Hyacinth in the shade. Now my plants were in the sun from morning until night, and save that the ground work of the blossoms exposed to the sun lost their pinkish tinge and acquired a distinct shade of azure blue, they were exactly like those grown in the shade. Indeed I think the plants are regular salamanders. If any one thinks our Missouri sun is not hot, I would like to have him stand bare headed on my side lawn where the tubs of Water Hyacinths stand. Ten minutes' trial on a summer

day would convince anyone. I think the reason my plants did so uncommonly well was because I gave them such rich soil. I filled each tub half full of leaf-loam, and added a third more of old rotted manure. My husband insisted that I would kill my plants with manure and I was fearful of it myself, but when my plants grew so wonderfully, I concluded I had struck the right treatment. Lora S. La Mance.

McDonald Co., Mo., Oct. 6, 1892.

[NOTE.—The Water Hyacinth needs some vegetable material in which to grow, and if the sun is hot when the plants are placed shade should be given them till they are established. Our efforts to grow them in clear water have been a failure. When the plant becomes well established in stagnant water with loose straw and manure or rotted leaves they seem to enjoy the strong rays of the sun.—Ed.]

ASPARAGUS PLUMOSUS NANUS.

One of the most beautiful plants I have ever grown is the *Asparagus plumosus nanus*. The only resemblance it bears to the ordinary asparagus is in the fineness of its foliage. It sends up shoots to the height of a foot and a half. These divide in branches something after the style of *Adiantums*. These branches are arranged flat, and arch over the pot in a most graceful, airy fashion. No fern can compare with them in delicacy. Indeed, the plant is so airily delicate in effect that it suggests a green mist rather than a mass of foliage. It is excellent for cutting as it lasts for days. A well-grown specimen is one of the most charming of plants for the decoration of the table. It is of the easiest cultivation. Give it a good, rich, sandy soil, good drainage, plenty of water on the roots and a frequent showering Mrs. L. M. Ruby.

Wayne Co., Iowa, July 23, 1892.

ABOUT COSMOS.—I wish some of the Band would let us know if they have tried taking up bulbs of *Cosmos*. Some of mine that were started in a hot-house have grown to the height of seven feet, and are now just forming buds. I began to think I had "Jack's bean stalk." The foliage is beautiful, but I am afraid I shall not know about the blossoms unless I can keep them over.

Mrs. N. J. Rowell.

Middlesex Co., Mass., Sept. 19, 1892.

[NOTE.—Mexico is the home of the *Cosmos*, and on the mountains north of Mexico city the editor saw, last August, splendid groups of the plants in full bloom. There they only grow from two to three feet tall, and become a mass of showy pink flowers.—Ed.]

MANETTIA BICOLOR.

I have cultivated this vine for several years and have found it the most satisfactory vine for both indoors and out that I ever grew. I cannot say that I ever saw one as loaded with flowers as the pictures represent, but thought it possible for florists to bring them to that perfection, as I have them bloom so profusely that they are admired by every one who sees them. The florist claims they will bloom every day in the year. That is true. I had one that was in bud or blossom every day for sixteen months, and how long it would have continued blooming I can't say, for I had it removed—it had become so long—to make room for other plants. To obtain a profusion of flowers, you must keep pinching off the ends of most of the runners; this causes it to put out buds and more runners; pinch off ends of most of these, and so on, and you will be surprised at the result. Another essential thing is planting in open ground in summer. No matter how small the plant, put out as soon as the weather will admit. A little shade is preferable to the hot sun all day. It is a lover of heat and moisture. Some say they cannot make them grow; foliage turns black, etc. When this is the trouble, cut off all poor leaves, dry stalks, wash the foliage and stems in clear water, stir the soil, and set in the sun. I use the same soil that I do for Geraniums: good loam and well-rotted manure. When first planted out I often omit the pinching process until the vine is as large as I care for, then do it, and in a short time it will be full of blooms. The large vines can be "lifted" carefully at frost time, placed in a cool room for a few days, then removed to the conservatory, without a leaf wilting or flower drooping. I am surprised that so many are unsuccessful with it, for with us it is as easy to grow and bloom as a Geranium.

E. P. H..

Litchfield Co., Conn., Oct. 8, 1892.

POLYANTHA ROSES.—I have a number of Polyantha Roses, but I don't think much of them. They are small and entirely scentless. I would not give much for a scentless rose.

Mrs. P. A. Greenawalt.

Ipswich, Aug. 17 1892.

[NOTE.—Mme. Cecil Brunner is one of the most fragrant as well as most free-blooming of roses. Clothilde Soupert is also fragrant.—Ed.]

MANETTIA BICOLOR.

My experience with the *Manettia* vine will, perhaps, prove of some benefit to the Sisters who have not succeeded with this desirable vine. In the spring of '91, while residing in the beautiful Puyallup valley in Wash., I received from a friend a small plant four inches high, in a small pot. It then had two bright blossoms nestled in the glossy foliage. In a few weeks it was re-potted in a six-inch pot with charcoal for drainage, then a layer of fresh cow manure, and filled up with sandy garden soil. It was placed in an east window and given a good supply of water, and how it did grow! All summer it was covered with its dazzling velvety blooms; and each blossom lasts for two or three weeks. I believe it would have bloomed all winter, as it was growing better all the time, but I had to move, and it, with all other floral treasures, had to be given away. And now I am longing for another *Manettia bicolor*.

Anna Davis.

Multnomah Co., Ore., Aug. 26, 1892.

[NOTE.—It is possible the *Manettia bicolor*, like the *Fuchsia* and *Dahlia*, enjoy a rather cool climate. Here in Pennsylvania *Fuchsias* and *Dahlias* are not very satisfactory plants for out-door blooming till the cool autumn weather comes, then they bloom gloriously till frost. The same is true of the *Calla Lilies*, and may be true of *Manettia bicolor*. At San Francisco, California, it is so cool that even in summer one has to wear heavy clothing and an overcoat to feel comfortable while walking through the park to enjoy the wealth of *Dahlia* and *Calla* blooms and the grand masses of *Fuchsia* blooms which are so freely met with.—Ed.]

NARCISSUS FOR WINTER BLOOMING.

Mr. Park.—Whoever fails to procure *Narcissus* of some variety for winter-blooming misses much pleasure. I have a *Polyanthus Narcissus* which had six flowers on one stalk. It has been in bloom two weeks, and will last much longer. Its perfume fills the room.

Mrs. McDonald.

Erie Co., Ohio.

Mr. Park.—My *Polyanthus Narcissus* threw up a scape bearing a large bud which bursted, disclosing a quantity of small buds. When I picked it for a friend to wear, just eight weeks after I received the bulb, it had fourteen lovely, pure white flowers and two buds in the cluster, making a beautiful bouquet.

L. C. Ussher.

Canada, Jan. 12.

PLANTING HOUSE BULBS IN DECEMBER.

Roman Hyacinths, Paper-white, and other Polyanthus Narcissus are all great favorites for Christmas and early winter-blooming because of their earliness, fragrance and beauty. They are so lovely that the wish is often expressed that they could be made to last until late winter and early spring, before blooming, and thus by having a supply of bulbs, to be able to have them in bloom four months instead of six weeks. If any who read this have ever made the wish let me tell them how it may be done.

Get your bulbs in early fall, as usual, for early blooming. For late flowers it pays to wait until late in the season, as most florists dispose of their surplus bulbs at a considerable reduction, after the regular selling season is over with. After getting the bulbs plant them at intervals through December and the first part of January. These bulbs will grow very fast and will soon be in bloom. In some mysterious way, bulbs know when the time for their annual growth has come, and the longer they are kept out of the ground after that time has come the more impatient they are to grow and perfect their blossoms. Indeed the Saffron Crocus and Oxalis will sometimes bloom when lying dry and loose on a shelf, as I have myself seen with my own eyes. A Roman Hyacinth planted in September needs to root at least six weeks in a dark cellar, and then needs four to six weeks sojourn in the light to develop its leaves and spikes. I have had a Roman Hyacinth, potted on Christmas, open the first blooms January 25, one month after potting. Six to eight weeks is a more common length of time. Roman Hyacinths send up so many spikes that a pot of them generally lasts three or four weeks in a moderately-heated room. So that by a little regulation of the time of planting and of bringing them up from the cellar, one can enjoy their beauty all winter. My last Roman Hyacinths and Polyanthus Narcissus bloomed in early April last year and were as perfect as those that bloomed at Christmas.

Two or three of these bulbs make a very acceptable Christmas present to a flower-loving friend, and is generally much more appreciated than a Christ-

mas card would be, or other useless trifles. Try it, some of you who are wondering what you will give your friends, that is new and out of the common.

Lora S. La Mance.

McDonald Co., Mo., Sept. 9, 1892.

BLUES IN MY LOUISIANA GARDEN.

As pretty a flower as any in my garden now, is native blue Ageratum. It grows three feet high, and in September and October is a mass of large clusters of lovely blue flowers. Many clusters will now measure over a foot across. It is a native perennial, and till it begins to run up for flowers is rather a coarse looking plant, but when in bloom little foliage shows. I have never, but once, cultivated the catalogue Ageratums. They grew too rank. The scent of the foliage was not pleasant, but there is no unpleasant smell from this native kind.

Another lovely blue in the garden is a clump or two of blue Browallias. They bloom first early in spring, but I do not care much for them then. In summer, self-sown seeds come up and come into bloom early in the fall, and are full of flowers when king frost claims them. Torenia's are at their loveliest now. they come up like weeds, will grow or bloom in sun or shade, wet or dry. Then there is the native blue Clematis, blue Salvias and native blue Pea. All are lovely now, when fall winds are whistling a warning of winter.

Margaret E. Campbell.

East Baton Rouge Par., La., Oct. 5, '92.

IN FAVOR OF SUNFLOWER.—I believe a correspondent suggested that different sections of our grand country should have different flowers to represent them. Then which would be the National Flower? He thinks the sunflower would be appropriate—that's what we want—for the "wild and woolly West." Yes, certainly, as it combines "the useful with the beautiful," is strong and thrifty, and while the color is not the loveliest, (who objects to the color of gold?) the great leaves make shade and kill malaria; the abundant seeds are very useful and even "the unsightly stalks," when done blooming and dry, make a very good substitute for kindling wood. What other flower can do as well?

Amateur.

Chariton, Ia., Sept. 5, 1892.



ABOUT YUCCAS.

The fine illustration of *Yucca Baccata* which appears on the preceding page has been kindly loaned by the U. S. Secretary of Agriculture for publication in the Magazine. We wished to present this illustration to our readers because it is typical of a very common plant which appears in South Western Texas, and especially in Mexico, where great plains stretching away for a hundred miles or more, and embracing thousands of acres of pasture lands are thickly dotted with the plants. There is a common species in Central Mexico which grows from 30 to 40 feet high, branching like a tree and bearing great drooping panicles of white flowers, but the one shown in the engraving is the most common. As represented, it bears upright panicles, and does not often branch above the surface. The plants are cut and bedded in thickly to form hedge fences, and the natives also use them in their arts. The stumps throw out sprouts and these appear as several plants, when the cut is low.

WATER HYACINTHS.

So many have written me asking about the culture of Water Hyacinth—*Pontederia Crassipes*—that I will give my way of growing for the benefit of readers of the Magazine. Cut an oil barrel in two, put about 4 inches rich earth in first, then 2 inches sand, fill with water and lay the plant on top of the water. It makes long feathery roots that go down into the sand. Sink the tub in the most sunny place in the yard, and keep full of water. This is all the care they need. Besides my tub in the yard I have a large pond filled with them. As fast as my tub gets full of plants, as it will do in a short time, I thin them out and take them to the pond. In full bloom, as they are most of the time, they are lovely. In the north during winter one could be put in the window in anything that would hold water. Some grow them without any earth in the tubs, but they do best with a little earth and bloom better for me. I have tried them both ways.

Sister Annie.

Hinds Co., Miss., July 17, 1892.

HARDY BULBS IN HOLLAND.

Most of the Tulips, Hyacinths and other varieties of hardy bulbs bought in the United States are grown in Holland, a country that lies lower than the sea, from which it is protected by dykes or levees. The soil is sandy, but always moist, the water being hardly two feet below the surface of the land. For more than two hundred and fifty years, these bulbs have been grown in that country for pleasure and exportation, their climate and treatment bringing bulbs to the greatest perfection. The bulb growers plough deeply an enormous amount of stable manure into the land in the spring, and plant potatoes. The crop is large but so poor in quality they are fed to cattle or exported to Russia for the Russian army. But the land is left just as rich and mellow as it can be made. In October and November the small bulbs are planted three or four inches deep, and as soon as the ground freezes they are covered four or five inches deep with reeds that grow about their canals. This covering is removed gradually at the approach of spring; the growing bulbs kept free from weeds; allowed to grow till the foliage ripens; carefully lifted by hand and dried, and replanted in new soil for five or six years till they become the large bulbs whose magnificent spikes of bloom we so admire the first time they bloom for us.

Experienced florists hold that most bulbs will increase and multiply, but Hyacinths have a tendency to derogate in this country; while some amateur writers say their Hyacinths continue to bloom just as well for years if planted in deep rich soil. Their method is to have beds forked up a foot or fifteen inches deep, and a large lot of well-rotted manure (cow manure being considered best), leaf loam, wood-ashes or some commercial fertilizer well forked into the soil.

Raw manure must never be allowed to come in contact with the young bulbs or roots, for it will certainly decay them. So it is best to have an inch of common soil under and around the bulbs. C. H. Sanford, Me., Sept. 12, 1892.

IN FAVOR OF UN-NAMED GLADIOLI.—I have about 25 named Gladioli. The rest bought in mixture, and the un-named, I think are prettier than the named ones.

Sarah Bramball.

Stevenson Co., Ill.

PANCRATIUM.

My experience with the *Pancratium* or Spider Lily is as follows: I have had them—that is the red ones—about five years. I did not take any particular notice of time of blooming and resting until last fall. When my spring bulbs died down, I took all up in order to reset them differently; among them the Spider Lilies. Being in no hurry to plant the bulbs out again I just let them all alone till time for potting out fall bulbs—September or October—thinking the Spider Lily should be put out at the same time. You may imagine my surprise and disappointment, when I went out a short time after to see red Spider Lilies in bloom in several places; of course mine did not bloom, but after a time the leaves came out, and I think them very pretty. I consoled myself with the thought that they would be out in time this season, as I did not intend to take them up again soon. I do not know certainly, but I think the leaves died away in the spring with the other bulbs. They have remained out of sight till now. During the latter part of August and the first of September we had a quantity of rain, which, I think, has caused them to come a little earlier this season; anyway, about two weeks ago the buds came along by themselves, except the stem that bore them, and in a few days the Lilies were open. Nearly every one had six Lilies on the stem in a whorl at the top and each Lily had six petals, I suppose you might call them; a few of which were fine. I think they lasted about a week, and then the beautiful Spiders faded. Since the flowers faded, still on the stems forming seeds, the leaves are beginning to come up and are now three or four inches high; more rain would make them grow very fast I presume, as it has been very hot and dry for ten or twelve days, the thermometer in my greenhouse, registering at 110° four o'clock P. M., the sun not shining directly upon it either.

I have never had a white *Pancratium*, and have never seen any mention of the red until recently. Judging from the engravings in the floral publications, I think the leaves of the white are somewhat wider than those of the red *Pancratium*, and a little differently shaped.

A. A. A.

Orangeburg, S. C., Sept. 24.

[NOTE.—What is known as Red Spider Lily is a species of *Nerine* from Japan.—Ed.]

EXPERIENCE WITH HYDRANGEAS.

I have found out that a sunny situation does not suit my Hydrangeas. I am sitting now where it can be seen, and it is not near so large as I expected it to be. When I set it out five months ago it was a two-year-old root, and it is now but little over a foot high, and of the straggling type of plants. This, I suppose, has resulted from the warm summer weather and from its situation. Its leaves are small and not well developed, while only a short distance away but partly in the shade, stands a vigorous and healthy-looking plant, of about the same age, though of a different variety, which is now a foot in diameter, and nearly so much in height, that was grown from a small cutting. The former had much the advantage in having well-developed roots when first set out but the other has grown faster. H. P. S.
Marion Co., Ala., Oct 5, 1892.

SOUR SOIL AND ITS EFFECTS.

My usual success in seed growing failed me the last time I sowed a lot, but it was through my ignorance of the effects of sour earth upon seeds. I used the same earth that had been in the seed box since last March, consequently but few came up, and even the greater part of those few died after being a few days old. I was disappointed after expecting so much and after the care taken to have the seeds sprout. Would lime mixed in with that earth have neutralized the sourness and made it suitable for the seed? H. P. S.

Macon Co., Ala., Oct. 5, 1892.

[Ans.—Lime is an alkali, and a certain amount of it will neutralize the acid in the soil. The farmer always finds great benefit from its use when applied upon soil in which "sour" abounds, as this plant thrives in a soil containing acid to such an extent that scarcely anything else will grow in it.—Ed.]

CACTUS FLOWERS.—Oh, my *Phyllocactus* bloomed last month and it is only three years old, but such a big plant! The blooms were lovely—14 inches long, 9 across and so beautiful and sweet smelling. My husband said it was the most beautiful flower he had ever seen. But wait, I have better. When my *Cereus Grandiflorus* blooms, then won't he be astonished? My *Epiphyllum* is in bud. *Echinocactus* bloomed all summer. Lucia Falconer.

Shellburne, Ont., Oct. 4, 1892.

MY MINIATURE GARDEN.

My miniature garden is a zinc box one yard in length, 14 inches wide, 7 inches deep and framed at the top with wood 2 inches wide. It is filled thus: Refuse coal at the bottom for drainage, sandy soil over this, rotted manure and leaves next, then mixed soil, composed of good loam, sand and manure which was left in the boxes where the seeds were sown in the spring. In this I set thirty plants. Only a few averaged ten inches in height. Most were small plants that will be quite large by spring when bedded out. Bright Coleuses and variegated leaved plants unsurpassed or attractive as flowers, and more constant. Only a few are in bloom now. A Rubra Begonia with its scarlet panicles, a crimson Pink, a Fuchsia and a white Geranium, also a pink flowered one. There is an Oxalis Ortgiesi, a favorite of mine, with its heart-shaped trifoliate leaves—olive green above and reddish purple beneath—bearing in profusion, clusters of golden flowers on long stems. It grows from roots, not bulbs, and attains a height of 18 to 20 feet if allowed to have its own way. I cut mine back as a bushy form suits me best. This is a fine plant all the year round. It grows well in the open ground during summer.

Pleroma splendens is in this garden. It has plush-like leaves in which the veins are very apparent. A good winter-bloomer, bearing large single flowers of a rich purple color. A strong grower, good for pots and for out-door garden.

There is a little orange plant in the garden with one tiny orange on it. My large bush of Otaheite orange will have to go into the cellar by-and-by as my miniature garden has crowded it out from the window.

This method of taking care of many plants, I have found by several years experience, to be the easiest, most convenient, most successful and the most attractive of any I have tried. The plants only need watering twice a week, and there is no spilling of water, no running over from the saucer. Lily plants, set here and there, take not half the room they would in pots. They have a good chance to grow and are fine for bedding out in spring. M. D. Wellcome.

Yarmouth, Me., Oct. 5, 1892.

COLUMBINE AS OUR NATIONAL FLOWER.

Columbine is my choice for the National Flower. The name is suggestive of Columbia, which this country is often called. The name first brought this flower to my mind, then I thought how it comes in the three colors, red white and blue,—our National colors—and how the children in our public schools could sow the seeds of the three colors and raise them, for they are hardy, and are not poisonous if eaten. I think they are native plants, for I found them growing wild in Massachusetts, my native state, and when I came to Kansas I found them growing wild here, near the creeks. The cultivated ones are more beautiful. I have had very fine double ones, but the humble bees and humming birds would sometimes tear the blooms in trying to get the honey contained in them; they represent the emigrant coming to our country to get the benefit of our rich soil and free institutions. The botanical name, Aquilegia, is from aquila, meaning eagle, our national bird. The petals are formed like the liberty cap, and also like the horn of plenty. Another thing to be noticed is the five points of the petals, which resemble the five points of the stars on our nation's flag. What flower is more appropriate in name, form, color and characteristic than Columbine to represent our country? I can think of none, and I hope it will be adopted. Mrs. Caroline E. D. Hamilton.

Edgerton, Johnson Co., Kan.

TULIPS FOR THE WINDOW.—Will not all the Band try Duc Van Thel and Italian Tulips in their windows this winter? They are so very cheap and can be depended on for last of January or February bloom. Also Narcissus Van Sion, Trumpet Major, Princess and Spureus Maximus, which are simply grand, as perfect as flowers could be and always sure to bloom. Subscriber

NICOTIANA AFFINIS.—I want to say a word for Nicotiana. I never admired it until it bloomed so profusely and continuously this summer, and filled the air with its delicious odor. When out back, repotted and brought into the house it is said to be a desirable pot plant.

Ella Ferry.

Adams Co., Ill.

TWO FAVORITES.

One of my favorite plants is a three-year old *Plumbago Capensis*. I have it growing in the centre of a nine-inch pot, and around the edge of the same pot I have a circle of another favorite plant, *Oenothera Mexicanum roseum*. This last is now being extensively advertised under the name of Mexican Primrose. I had mine long before the day it became a fashionable flower, and consider it a fine basket plant, with its graceful half-recumbent habit, and its large, salver-shaped flowers, of the brightest, loveliest pink co'or imaginable. The delicate azure clusters of the *plumbago* floating above the rosy pink of the *Oenothera*, form such a lovely contrast that I always grow them together. Some people complain that these two plants are shy bloomers. I have never found them so, and think some mistake must have been made in their treatment, where they have proved unsatisfactory. The *Oenothera* is never a profuse bloomer, but is almost a continuous one, if given plenty of water. Left to itself, the *Plumbago* develops into a thin, straggling bush, with a few long, weak arms. Naturally the Primrose would fail to bloom if kept too dry, and the *Plumbago* if allowed to grow untrained. Another mistake people make, is to starve them by letting them stay in the same soil year after year. Every spring I empty my *Plumbago* and Mexican Primroses out of their pots, divide the *Oenotheras*, and prune back every lop-sided branch or long weak arm of the *Plumbago*. This makes it throw out new branches, and by picking off all of the blossom heads as they wither, and nipping off the end of any particularly long shoot that starts, I keep my *Plumbago* bushy and full of bloom the year round. I repot them in fresh potting soil, made by mixing three-fourths leaf loam with one-fourth silver sand, and adding to it one-sixth its bulk of finely pulverized, old manure. I don't believe good flowers can be grown without good soil for the plant's roots to feed upon.

If preferred, both of these plants can be utilized as summer bedders. If not allowed to suffer for moisture, they blossom finely and stand the sun perfectly. The *Oenothera* belongs to the Evening Primrose family, but it likes the sun as

well as most of its relatives dislike it. Plants that have been bedded out, can be carefully lifted, well cut back and will be in bloom again for winter.

Lora S. La Mance.

McDonald Co., Mo., Sept. 9, 1892.

[NOTE.—The prominent native species of *Oenothera* in Pennsylvania are all sun-loving plants, and the various specimens noticed by the editor during his recent trip to Mexico and the Pacific Coast were mostly found in places fully exposed to the sun. From these observations it was inferred that most of the *Oenothera* family flourished in a sunny situation.—ED.]

PROTECTING ROSES.

Mr. Editor:—The article in the July Magazine on "Growing Roses Under Glass" attracted my attention, and I wish to endorse your note, for I heartily agree with you in the culture you recommend. I adopted it some ten years ago with success and acquired some local fame, both in this northern home, and in Ridley Park, Delaware Co., Penna., where we formerly resided, for my good luck in keeping my roses alive from year to year, and for the perfection and profusion of bloom.

Late in the season—in November—the ground about the roses was covered with leaves, then the bushes were pinned down and covered with evergreen boughs. When the frost was out of the ground in spring the boughs were removed and the rose bushes were thoroughly pruned, and new shoots soon followed, from which I have an abundance of bloom.

A. E. R. Fuller.

York Co., Me., July 20, 1892.

SPANISH DAGGER IN MISSISSIPPI.—Spanish Dagger grows wild in abundance here. The plants are large and heavy, and grow to be ten feet or more high. We have two kinds of *Yucca*—*Aloifolia* and *Filamentosa*. I find them both hardy in Michigan where I brought them from when we came here.

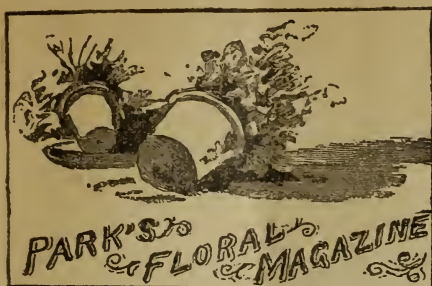
Mrs. J. T. Davidson.

Hinds Co., Miss., July 18, 1892.

MOSS AND BALSAMS.—Mr. Park:—I send some pieces of moss which I gathered in the spring, and which give a pleasing effect put into a shallow glass dish of water and then filled nearly full of double pink Balsams. The moss comes out in a feathery way, keeps its color and makes a pretty contrast.

Elizabeth H. Grover.

Amherst, Mass., Aug. 12, 1892.



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PRICE, 50 CENTS A YEAR.

All who love flowers are cordially invited to correspond with the editor.

SEPTEMBER, 1892.

NOTICE—I recall the offer of Bermuda Lilies, as I shall be unable to forward the bulbs, owing to the failure of a dealer to supply the bulbs for which a large contract was made. I regret this delinquency, but will make good the offer as long as my present supply of Bermudas lasts. After that I shall either substitute or return the money.

PLEASE REMEMBER that now is the time to plant the hardy bulbs. Don't fail to get a supply while the season lasts. See Grand Premium Offer on the 2nd page of this Magazine. We have every bulb there offered now. It is worth considering. You may never have an opportunity to get such a fine collection again. Subscribe now, and ask your friends to subscribe. You'll never regret it.

DELAYED PREMIUMS.—I regret that a few who subscribed upon the August offer had to wait some days for their premiums. Also that we were obliged to substitute for several of the plants offered. All offers, however, have been filled as liberally and satisfactorily as possible, and I trust those who received the plants are pleased. It should be borne in mind that the Palm and the Water Hyacinth are plants which Florists have always retailed at 25 cents each, and that besides those we gave eight other plants and the Magazine. In ordinary business, where the Catalogue price of 15 to 25 cents per plant is paid, no Florist should substitute, but in this case, where the plants are a free gift, and the postage takes from 7 to 9 cents of the fifty, it would seem unreasonable for a person to complain. However, we want all satisfied, and hope that any grievances that may have been caused will be made known at once.

TREATMENT OF BULBS.—Bulbs of Calochortus, Fritillaria recurva and Freesia should be set an inch below the surface in porous, well drained soil. In the south they are hardy, and can be planted out, but in the north they must be grown in pots. After potting, water and set in a dark closet till roots form, which will be in from three to six weeks, then the pots may be brought to the window, where the flower buds will soon appear.

NATIVE AGERATUMS.—A subscriber in Illinois and one in Louisiana send specimen flowers of native blue Ageratums which they speak highly of as blooming plants.

A GLORIOUS FLOWER BED.—Nothing can be more gorgeous and attractive than a bed of mixed Tulips. The large brilliant flowers of the double and single sorts, massed together, make such a glorious display in early spring that words cannot describe it. For a bed 2½ by 5½ feet 49 bulbs are sufficient, and they may be arranged as indicated in the diagram, placing the rows six

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inches apart, and the bulbs six inches apart in the rows. These bulbs may be had of Florists by mail, including single and double in equal proportions and separately packed and post paid for \$1 20.

The Tulips bloom early in the spring, but the Crocuses come still earlier, opening their flowers almost before the snow has disappeared. The same bed can, therefore, be planted with Crocuses which will be done blooming before the Tulips have begun to open. 150 Crocus bulbs in four colors, separately labeled, may be had of Florists for \$1. Set them thickly. They will charm every beholder when the flowers open next spring.

A CURIOUS ROSE.—Mrs. Anna Davis, of Portland, Oregon, has a rose bush that from early spring till winter, is just loaded with flowers, the petals of which are brownish red with green under-surface. The bush is healthy and grows fast. It is in a sunny situation, in company with other fine roses.

TRITOMA CULTURE.—The Tritoma or Red-hot Poker plant is hardy south of Washington and may be grown outdoors with safety. Further north it should be protected with evergreen boughs or a covering of straw. Where this covering is not sufficient the plant should be lifted in autumn, placed in a pot or box of soil and kept sparingly watered on an upper shelf in the cellar, then planted out in the spring.

STARTING SEEDS OF PEPPER TREE.—Seeds of Pepper Tree, (Schinus Molle) start very readily when fresh. They may be sown in boxes and transplanted, or in the open ground in May. Cover about one-fourth inch deep.

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

Tuberose.—Does the Tuberose bloom more than one year? I never had one to bloom yet. I always keep the old bulbs and give away the slips. When is the best time to start a Tuberose from a slip?—Nellie Dickson, Ind.

Ans.—A Tuberose bulb blooms but once; after that the offsets must be depended upon for flowers. These should be taken off in June and planted deeply in a moist soil and partial shade. By a year's culture they become blooming bulbs. That these may be sure to bloom when large enough they should be lifted as soon as frost comes, dried off in the sun, wrapped in cotton, and kept in a warm room. The flower germ is very tender, and will not endure cold and moisture. Too early planting out doors in the spring will cause decay.

Keeping Cannas, etc.—I want to know the best way to keep Cannas and Caladiums through the winter, as my cellar is damp and cold.—Mollie Dickson, Ind.

Ans.—Pot the plants and keep them in the sitting room, sparingly watered. They need not occupy a place in the window, but the warm dry air in the sitting room makes this mode of keeping them successful.

Geranium Enemy.—Will you please tell me in your Magazine what to do to get rid of little green worms that injure Geraniums?—Mrs. S. E. S., Marquette Co., Wis.

Ans.—If the "worms" work upon the foliage stir while hellebore in water and sprinkle the plants and the pest will soon disappear. Fertilizer will do just as well, but more care is necessary in using it.

Abutilon.—What can I do to my Abutilon. It is growing so tall and slender. It is no larger around than a knitting needle, and a foot or more tall.—May E. Wood.

Ans.—Cut the plant back till within six inches of the ground. It will soon branch and become bushy.

Lobster Cactus.—What is the matter with the Lobster Cactus? It always drops off at the joints.—Rachel Smith, Ind.

Ans.—It is possible the drainage is clogged, and that the roots are kept too moist.

Mr. Park.—I thought you would be glad to know of my success with the roses you sent me in the spring. I never had plants make such a fine growth the first season. Nearly all have bloomed. Some I have not allowed to bloom until recently. I love roses best of all the flowers, and it is a great pleasure to be able to go to the flower-garden and pick a handful as I did to-night, and have done frequently of late. The Isabella Sprunt does not open its buds; they drop off just as they seem ready to unfold. What is the cause?

Mrs. Stewart McDonald.

Erle Co., Ohio, Oct. 5, 1890.

Ans.—Some Roses do not open well in the autumn, while others revel in the cool autumnal weather. Some Roses do not open well in damp weather, while others are not affected. Like that strong-growing, beautiful Rose, Etiole de Lyon, Isabella Sprunt fails to open well out doors if the weather is unfavorable. On the other hand, the lovely little Primrose Dame, which blooms so profusely and bears such exquisite flowers out doors, often drops its buds in-door when its requirements are not met. An acquaintance with the various roses enables one to select the roses suited for the locality or purpose desired, and this is better than to try to meet the requirements of culture.

Pests.—What will destroy mealy bugs and worms and little gnats? The latter seem to be in all my pots. Although I have used lime-water, camphor-water and matches, yet they are still there.—Mrs. L. W. Wilton, Texas.

Ans.—For mealy bugs, syringe the plants with an emulsion of kerosene oil and soap-suds, dashing the liquid upon the affected parts with considerable force. Treat them twice a week. The pest will soon disappear. For "worms" in the soil and "gnats" let the soil in the pots get rather dry, then water with lime water or tobacco tea. A mixture of soot, sulphur and lime dusted thickly over the surface and worked into the soil is also a good remedy.

Verbenas from Seeds.—Can any one tell me how to raise Verbenas from seeds? I have planted them several different ways but have never succeeded in starting a plant. Mrs. Demerilla, Utah.

Ans.—Verbena seeds are not hard to start, but they require from two to three weeks to germinate even under favorable conditions. Many persons depend upon volunteer plants from the Verbena bed. These come from the seeds which fell the previous season, and remained upon the ground throughout the winter. It is better, however, to sow the seeds in a box in the house in the spring.

Use woods earth as a covering, and cover only about one-eighth of an inch deep. Keep the soil moist, but not wet. If kept wet the seeds are liable to rot.

NATIONAL FLOWER.

The Lily, if chosen for our National Flower will hold the proudest position the world can give. No amount of abuse or dirt throwing can tarnish one petal of our National flower. No matter what flower is chosen we shall guard it, love it, and if need be fight for it, just as we guard, love, and fight for the stars and stripes because they are our national emblem. Ella Ferry.

Adams Co., Ill.

The Lily.—Our favorite is the Lily. The plants are cultivated or grow wild "o'er hill and dale," and with high authority we say "Consider the Lilies." Everyone is familiar with them in some form and loves them. With the Lily no one need blush for our National flower. A. E. R. Blush for.

York Co., Me., July 20, 1892.

A Vote on the National Flower.—Mr. Park:—I will send you the result of the vote which was taken at our County Fair for the National flower. I hoped to have a much larger vote to report, but the people did not seem to understand what the vote was for. Very many thought we had a National flower and some would not vote because England had the rose. Others thought there was some political significance in it. Major Warner, the Republican candidate for Governor, spoke on Thursday of the Fair, and registered his vote for Golden Rod. I voted for the Pink, because I think it is the most appropriate of any that is left. The result of the vote is as follows:

Pink, 122; Golden Rod, 53; Pansy, 2; Violet, 19; Red Clover, 3; Daisy, 2; Geranium, 3; Sunflower, 5, scattering, 15. Please register the result with your vote for the World's Fair exhibit. I think we ought to decide this year what our National flower will be, and have it adopted by Congress. Surely these grand United States should not be behind all others in adopting a flower for our emblem. I wish you success in your work. There is nothing so pleasing to me as to work and study about growing plants and seeing them bloom. S. E. H.

Johnson Co., Mo.

PLANTS NAMED.

Mr. Park:—I enclose herewith a slip of a perennial name. It sends up a little rosette of red leaves in the late summer, which in the spring grows up from 12 to 18 inches high, and in June is crowned with a cluster of golden-yellow blossoms, two inches across. It is beautiful and so easy to cultivate. It spreads slowly but is easily kept back. What is its name and to what family does it belong? We call it the "Country Girl." Mrs. D. E. Largeant,

Marion, Iowa, June 30, 1892.

Ans.—The plant is a species of *Eriogonum* or Evening Primrose, known as *Eriogonum frutescens*. *Tagetes signata* pumila.—S. W. Baker, Me.:—The plant of which you enclose specimen is *Tagetes signata* pumila, known as New Dwarf Marigold. It is globular, has delightfully fragrant foliage and becomes a mass of small golden flowers. It is a fine annual.

QUESTIONS.

Trapa Natans.—I wish someone would answer the question of how to treat seeds of *Trapa Natans*. Mrs. J. A. P. Tenn.

Rose Jar.—How shall I prepare a "Rose Jar" or a jar of rose petals for perfume? M. E. Wood.

Gloxinias.—Will someone tell me how to treat my Gloxinia plant?—Mrs. Ruby, Iowa.

Hibiscus.—My Hibiscus grows well but drops its buds when they are about half open. How should I treat it?—Mrs. R. M. W., Cook Co., Ill.

Pontederia.—Should *Pontederia* have water enough to float in, or only about three inches?—A. B., N. Y.

ACKNOWLEDGMENT.

Mrs. M. L. Booth, Waco., Oregon, box of native plants.

Seeds of wild "Pickle Plant" from Ida M. Lewis, Nebraska.

Seeds of Bush Morning Glory from Mrs. P. C. Delaganean, Texas.